

On Sunday, we looked at a lot of difficult passages in the Bible. How do you handle it when you encounter a difficult passage?

Mostly, we are considering the instructions of the Bible. Are there some commands or other instructions that continue to be confusing to you?

Are there commands that are still “controversial” to you personally? (You know what the Bible means by the command, but you find it hard to agree with it.)

Are there commands that you understand and agree with but still find hard to actually obey?

Read Genesis 3:1-6. On Sunday, I identified three motivations that led Adam and Eve to disobey God’s command: (1) They weren’t paying attention to God’s actual words but built artificial boundaries around what God had actually said (do not touch it); (2) They weren’t paying attention to God’s reasons and thought they could decide for themselves what was good and what wasn’t; and (3) They were believing a lie about what life would be like on the other side of the disobedience. Do people still do those things today?

To put God’s word into practice, I gave the following advice:

Step 1: Let God’s Word speak for itself.

- The teaching of Jesus governs all.
- The New Testament governs the Old Testament.
- The clear parts govern the vague parts.
- Timeless principles govern shifting circumstances.

Step 2: Be motivated by God’s reasons.

- What does this say about my human problem?
- What does this say about God’s grace?

Step 3: Daily embrace God’s future for you.

- What promises accompany this obedience?

I also challenged everyone to select one behavior of obedience to work on in light of these principles. Did you pick one? Which one? Have you tried applying the three steps to your chosen behavior?

Honor God with your body – (fitness, sex, alcohol, food)
Don’t give up meeting together • Love your spouse.
Watch your mouth • Guard your eyes • Resolve conflict

Bring the whole tithe • Repent and be baptized • Be a disciple, make a disciple.

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